

URBAN DESIGN COMMITTEE

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

(DRAFT)

The Urban Design Committee was established by ordinance in 1981 to advise city government on enhancing the physical environment of Lincoln. By Section 4.36 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, the Committee has seven appointed citizen members serving three year terms.

The Committee members at the beginning of 2010 were Mike Eckert, JoAnne Kissel, Michelle Penn, Gordon Scholz, Scott Sullivan (chair), and Mary Ann Wells. The board seat formerly held by Margaret Berry was vacant when she declined reappointment. The Committee meets as necessary on the first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. Ten meetings have been held so far in 2010, with quorums on the Committee present except in January.

The Committee advised the Urban Development Dept. and the City Administration on several public-private redevelopment projects in 2009, including the Color Court Project on M Street (8th-9th) and the “Gold’s Block” project on N Street (9th-10th). The Committee advised the Planning Director on a soil mining permit adjacent to Interstate 80 at NW40th and West Vine. Other varied projects reviewed included the 48th & Prescott/College View streetscape improvements, streetscape elements for the Havelock business district, a street painting project in front of the Malone Center under the City’s new ordinance permitting such neighborhood ornaments, the Union Plaza Active Living Center, and in-fill houses in the Everett and Clinton neighborhoods by Urban Development Department. The Committee heard an appeal of a Neighborhood Design Standards review for 4233 Y Street and approved the design, providing flexibility in the implementation of those Standards, as intended. Haymarket Park brought an indoor practice facility design before the Committee in October, consistent with its agreement with the City.

A major project for the year, for several committees and especially for LES, was the Central Lincoln Reliability Study for new transmission lines in the city core. The routing approved by the LES board closely matched the recommendations of Urban Design Committee. The Committee also received updates and provided advice on the Wayfinding sign project underway by Corbin Design for the City. UNL, Downtown Lincoln Association, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and several city departments are partnering to fund that project.

The 26th annual Enersen Urban Design Awards recognized Rose Garden at Antelope Park and the pedestrian alley off N. 13th Street adjacent to the Stuart Building/University Towers, which provides access to Lincoln Flats.

With the voter approval of the West Haymarket arena project, the Committee stands ready to join with Historic Preservation Commission in continuing to advise on design elements of that major urban improvement.



Conceptual design for vehicular “guide signs,”
under development by Corbin Design



Sketch for Street painting on U
Street, at Clyde Malone Community
Center



Downtown bus shelter design for StarTran

Respectfully submitted
January 5, 2011

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